

Name: Anitress Terry
Bill #: 5221
Support For: Michael McClean 239491

First and foremost Good Morning,

As I sit here before you trying my very best to compose myself and more importantly that being my nerves, I must secondly express what an honor it is for me to be here on behalf of not only my loving and supportive fiancé Michael McClean, who was only 15 years old at the time of his incarceration, however I am an advocate in support on a grand scale of what this Juvenile Bill #5221 can do for so many young people in our state who needed our help 10, 15 and so many various numbers of years ago, but yet it wasn't available to them.

Today we as a state can write our wrong by passing this bill in assuring our once young people that were affected by the lack of reform in our state that we do care by giving them a second chance at life.

My fiancé isn't the incorrigible 15 year old who the newspaper depicted him of being after yes making a very poor choice and judgment 19 years ago today. Furthermore I can also assert with the upmost confidence that Michael is in fact a completely changed man. And he isn't so due to the fact that he hasn't had a ticket in almost 14 years, after being incarcerated 19 years. Michael is extremely passionate and instrumental in the following programs that he's involved in which are, Alternative to Violence, Changing Criminal thinking, Community outreach programs of which he speaks two time a month to high school students about consequential thinking and the power of decision making, Hospice, where he helps to provide comfort for the terminally ill and CT Juvenile Alliance to name a few. Not to exclude the fact that he's also currently working in the prison Hospital as a CNA worker and has aspiration once released to becoming a Youth counselor. To say the very least I'm extremely proud of Michael who also has been my rock over the years.

In closing I leave you with two things and that is my concerns for my two children future who Michael has made a huge difference and complete investment in their lives all while he has been in prison and then lastly a statement from him his self.

My son is a typical vibrant young boy who like many of your own children have aspirations to be what we the world need for them to be to make it a better place to live in. What make this all possible for our son to be his very best is for him to have the right role model in his life, in believe you me there isn't a better role model for our son then Michael himself period.

And lastly I leave with you a Quote from Michael "The odyssey of this prison experience has given me not only a new perspective in purpose in my life, but yet it has also afforded me a meaningful opportunity to examine the very things I swore up and down that I cherish in life like family, education and life itself, which obviously now looking back I've taken for granted. As the only constant inevitability in life I realize is change itself. Although growth and or maturity is an option freely afforded to us all, so I choose today and tomorrow and for the rest of my life to continue to grow and mature for the better.

So I the fiancé of Michael McClean say to any victim whom I'm sure feels indifferent to the passing of such a bill, if my ancestor who was once slaves didn't forgive those who done the unthinkable to our people what kind of world would we be living in today.

Thank you and God Bless you all.